

REMARKS

By the above actions, claim 6 has been amended and claim 4 cancelled. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

With the cancellation of claim 4, the objection thereto and the objection to the drawings based thereon have been rendered moot, so that withdrawal of these objections is in order and is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 11 have been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 USC § 103 based on the combined teachings of the Raiser and Jungreis patents. Reconsideration of this rejection is in order for the following reasons.

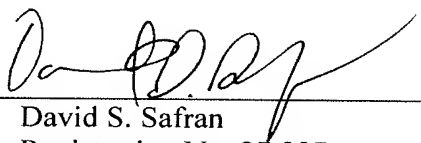
Raiser discloses a DC/DC converter for a fuel cell in which two different voltages are provided by the DC/DC converter, and in contrast to the present invention, both provided voltages are converted voltages. As for Jungreis, this patent discloses a fuel cell power control in which an unconverted voltage is delivered *directly* to the load, while, according to independent claims 1 & 6 of the present patent application, the unconverted voltage is provided via the converter. Thus, thus, if one of ordinary skill were to apply the teaching of Jungreis to provide a converted and an unconverted voltage to Raiser, the result would be a method and arrangement in which the unconverted voltage is delivered directly to the load, and there would be no reason or motivation to provide the unconverted voltage via the DC/DC converter. It is only the present applicants that teach to provide a converted and an unconverted voltage via the DC/DC converter because, as noted in paragraph [0008], it "is possible to connect the fuel cell only to the DC/DC converter" so that "no additional circuitry measures are necessary in the area of the fuel cell." Thus, the present invention obtains an improvement not taught or suggested by the prior art Raiser and Jungreis patents. Therefore, the § 103 rejection based on these patents should be withdrawn.

Claims 3 & 9 have been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 USC § 103 based on the combined teachings of the Raiser and Jungreis patents when viewed in further combination with the Chiao patent while claims 4 & 10 have been rejected based on these references when viewed in still further combination with the Kuwayama et al. patent. However, even if the uses the loads as taught by Chiao and the control of Kuwayama et al. with the Raiser DC/DC converter as modified based on Raiser, the fact would remain that there still would be no teaching to provide

the unconverted voltage via the DC/DC converter, nor would there be any recognition of the advantage noted above as being obtained by the present invention. Accordingly, these rejections should also be withdrawn for the same reasons as noted above with respect to the combination of the Raiser and Jungreis patents by themselves.

While this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David S. Safran
Registration No. 27,997

Customer No. 25570

Roberts Mlotkowski & Hobbes P.C.
P.O. Box 10064
McLean, VA 22102

Direct Telephone: (703) 584-3273